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Group 2700

Docket No.: WD2-96-002X  
09/112,131

Patent

Official

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Walker et al.

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS  
FOR A CRYPTOGRAPHICALLY  
ASSISTED COMMERCIAL  
NETWORK SYSTEM DESIGNED  
TO FACILITATE AND SUPPORT  
EXPERT-BASED COMMERCE

Group Art Unit: 2764

Examiner: C. Nguyen

Serial No.: 09/112,131

Docket No.: WD2-96-002X\*  
(\* please note new docket number)

Filed: July 8, 1998

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231THIRD PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Preliminary to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 67 and 113 as follows.

sub 01  
1. (Twice Amended) [An apparatus] A computer for managing communications between an expert and an end user, comprising:

a controller unit for receiving from an end user an end user request that defines a requested expert qualification, the controller unit having a database for storing a plurality of expert qualifications, each stored expert qualification corresponding to an expert of a